

Claims

Sub a' 1. A process for the production of a worsted wool fabric, comprising shielding a single wool yarn by wrapping a polymeric filament around it, to form a combined yarn, weaving the combined yarn and subsequently separating the shielding polymer from the wool.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the single wool yarn is dyed prior to weaving.

3. A process according to claim 1, wherein the said wool is roving.

Sub a 4. A process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is a synthetic polymer.

5. A process according to claim 4, wherein the polymer is a polyhydric alcohol (polyol).

6. A process according to claim 5, wherein the polymer is selected from polyvinyl alcohols, and copolymers of polyvinyl alcohols.

T08290" C8446860

7. A process according to claim 6, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is water-soluble.

8. A process according to claim 4, wherein the polymer is selected from copolymers of acrylonitrile, acrylic acid, meta-acrylic acid and esters of these acids.

9. A process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is a naturally occurring polymer.

10. A process according to claim 9, wherein the polymer is a cellulosic derivatives.

11. A process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is a continuous filament or film.

12. A process according to claim 1, wherein the wool diameter is from 17 to 21 microns.

13. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the polymer filament (or film) is wound or spun together with a core of the wool yarn in a helicoidal fashion.

090446860

Sub 93

Sub 94

14. A process according to claim 13, wherein the winding is by an assembly winding.

15. A process according to claim 13, wherein the spinning is by bi-component process.

Sub 16. A process according to claim 1, wherein the separation is effected by dissolving the polymer in a solvent.

17. A process according to claim 16, wherein the said solvent is water or a water-based solution.

Sub 18. A process according to claim 17, wherein the process is carried out at temperature in the range of 75-95°C.

19. A process according to claim 1, wherein a steaming step is applied to the combined yarn prior to weaving.

Sub 20. A process according to any of claims 1 to 19, wherein the polymer is removed from the wool prior to dyeing, thereby leaving a fabric made essentially solely of wool.

106290-062901

21. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 19, wherein the polymer is removed from the wool after the dyeing step, thereby leaving a fabric made essentially solely of wool.

22. A woven textile article, garment or a cloth, whenever made by the process of any one of claims 1 to 21.

23. A yarn comprising a wool core around which there is disposed a substantially continuous polymeric filament.

24. A yarn as claimed in claim 23, wherein the polymeric filament is wound helicoidally around the wool yarn.

Sub 25. A yarn as claimed in claim 23 or 24, wherein the polymeric filament is made essentially of PVA.

add 29

09694483-062801